A bad memory is a cheerful liar's nightmare.

Easter Ceremonies of Today and of the Past

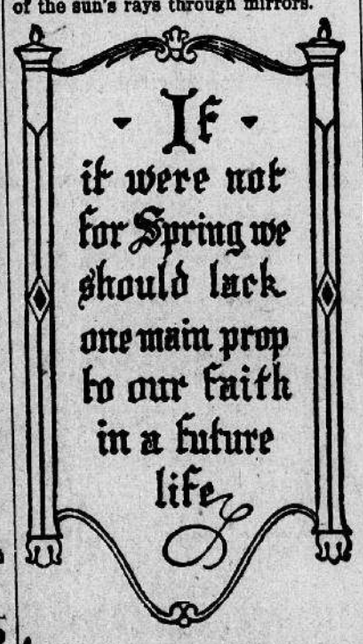
WITH the coming of Easter interest is always aroused in the ancient belief, ceremonies and observances that are brought together in the celebration of the modern festival. These include such things as eggs, cakes, flowers, presents and the Easter hare, to say nothing of other items obsolete in our times. Individual notings of one or another of the ceremonies or observances have there been, but it is by no means easy to lay hand on any assembling of them.

Authorities agree that the remote ancestor of Easter was a ceremony of pagan worship. Distant as are the origins of the old religious forms and intertwined as are the threads, connecting them with the present, it is not now easy to disentangle them, so that it may be said that Easter observances among the people include remnants of the ancient worship of the sun, the moon and fire and water. The keynote of the festival has been from the very beginning resurrection, the re-awakening of the vernal world. The name is that of a goddess of spring, and certain of the emblems have had a co-relation that is remarkable, and through thirty centuries they have come down to us together, preserving the early significance of resurrection, although the faith that originated the ideas had ages ago been forgotten. The idea of Easter sprang truly from a tomb; that tomb was, however, the tomb of winter. The strong angel that rolled away the stone from the door of the sepulcher was the April sun.

Although Lent has the claim of Christian origin, there are antiquarians who assert that it is of far more ancient origin. It arose, as nearly as has yet been determined, in the fasting that was customary among the Babylonians, whose worship formed the starting point of Easter. The fast was one of sympathy with the goddess of reproduction, who mourned her consort, and the period was marked by fasting and an abstinence from mirth and social festivals. Fasting has been a widespread custom, Humboldt noting fasts in Mexico, where, curiously enough, the invading Spaniards found the natives practicing baptism, with an invocation to Cioacooatl that "the sin which was given before the beginning of the world might not visit the child, but that cleansed by these waters it might live and be born anew."

Easter was at first a continuation of the Jewish Passover and came on the fourteenth of the month Nisan. When the revulsion of feeling in the church against the Jews occurred it was changed and deliberately fixed so that it could by no possibility fall on the same day as the Passover. This matter was settled in A. D. 325. Easter was set for the first Sunday following the full moon that comes after March 21. This relation to the vernal equinox brought it to the time of the pagan festival of the goddess of spring, dating back to the Astarte worship of Babylonia. The name, Easter, is comparatively modern, but the principle of the story and the emblems and observances are of this ancient date.

"Easter fires continue even now in northern Europe," wrote Grimm a generation ago. On the Weser a tar barrel was tied to a fire tree and lighted in the evening and the men and the maidens sang and danced about it. There was a fire on every hilltop. There were processions to these fires and hymn singing and the bearing of white rods were features. The people liked to carry the fire home with them; it was a sacred fire and embodied elements of the old fire worship. It was produced by friction, a natural method, and to kindle it two boys were selected who knew nothing of the vanities of the world. Within a quarter of a century in Hildesheim the Easter fire has been struck with the steel. Here the people take the fire home to rekindle their extinguished hearths. The old sacred fires were lighted by natural means, some of them by concentration of the sun's rays through mirrors.



To Clean White Feathers.

Mix gasoline and plaster of paris to the consistency of whipped cream. Dip the feathers in this mixture, squeezing and pressing them. Hang them in the open air until all the gasoline has evaporated, and then shake well.

Soft-Boiled Eggs.

Place the eggs in a warm saucepan and cover with boiling water; let them stand where they will keep hot, but not boil, for ten minutes. This method will cook both whites and yolks.

And many a toothless person indulges in biting sarcasm.

Definition of a Crisis.

"Pa, the paper says there's a crisis in Mexico. What's a crisis?"

"A scarcity of news, my boy."—Life.

Climate Knockers.

Some people blame the climate for their ill health, whereas the real trouble is that they shut themselves up in their houses and won't give the climate a chance.—Charleston News and Courier.

An Idea.

About the thinnest substance known is teleplasma, which is described as a sort of a cross between smoke and spiderweb. Wouldn't a gown made of it be just too exquisite for anything!—Youngstown Telegram.

The Reason.

Cause and Effect—"It must be great to be a man! One dress suit lasts for years and years, and a woman must have a new gown for every party." "That's why one dress suit lasts a man for years and years."—Judge.

Saw Something, at Least.

Two little English children had run away from home, drawn by the irresistible attractions of a circus. "Oh, Mary, come here!" cried one, lying on the ground and raising the bottom of the large tent, "I see the 'horses 'oofs."—The Delineator.

CLEVER WIFE
Knew How to Keep Peace in Family.

It is quite significant, the number of persons who get well of alarming heart trouble when they let up on coffee and use Postum as the beverage at meals.

There is nothing surprising about it, however, because the harmful alkaloid—caffeine—in coffee is not present in Postum, which is made of clean, hard wheat.

"Two years ago I was having so much trouble with my heart," writes a lady in Washington, "that at times I felt quite alarmed. My husband took me to a specialist to have my heart examined.

"The doctor said he could find no organic trouble but said my heart was irritable from something I had been accustomed to, and asked me to try and remember what disagreed with me.

"I remembered that coffee always soured on my stomach and caused me trouble from palpitation of the heart. So I stopped coffee and began to use Postum. I have had no further trouble since.

"A neighbor of ours, an old man, was so irritable from drinking coffee that his wife wanted him to drink Postum. This made him very angry, but his wife secured some Postum and made it carefully according to directions.

"He drank the Postum and did not know the difference, and is still using it to his lasting benefit. He tells his wife that the 'coffee' is better than it used to be, so she smiles with him and keeps peace in the family by serving Postum instead of coffee."

Name given by the Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Postum now comes in two forms:

Regular Postum — must be well boiled. 15c and 25c packages.

Instant Postum—is a soluble powder. A teaspoonful dissolves quickly in a cup of hot water and, with cream and sugar, makes a delicious beverage instantly. 30c and 50c tins.

The cost per cup of both kinds is about the same.

"There's a Reason" for Postum. —sold by Grocers.

A Century Ago.

One hundred years ago saw the end of the Chatillon congress which had been endeavoring to settle upon terms of peace between France and the nations allied against her. From the beginning of the negotiations little hope had been entertained on either side that an agreement would be reached. Napoleon consented to give up Westphalia, Holland and Spain, to restore the pope to Rome and Ferdinand VII to Madrid. He agreed to give up Malta to England, as well as most of her colonial conquests. But he remained steadfast in claiming for France her natural limits, the Rhine and the Alps. The plenipotentiaries, deciding that further discussion would be useless, declared the negotiations at an end, and the allied armies prepared to resume their march on Paris.

Water for St. Petersburg.

The city council of St. Petersburg is considering a measure appropriating $25,000,000 for a supply of pure water, to be drawn from Lake Ladoga, 40 miles away. On reaching the Ladoga pumping station the water will be driven into reservoirs and filters, whence it will flow through the pipes unaided to the capital and there distributed. The capacity of the works, which will be ready in 1920, is calculated for a population of 4,500,000.

All Equally Right—or Wrong.

Former President Taft told this little story to illustrate the puzzling character of a certain public question: "I feel about that question very much as the man did who came across a creek which, as some one told him, was called the Saskaschiqualie creek. He asked a resident of the neighborhood how they spelled that name. The native said: 'Some spells it one way, and some spells it another, but in my judgment there ain't any correct way of spelling it.'"—Youth's Companion.

Our idea of a poor excuse of a man is one who solicits dirty linen for his wife to wash and iron.

HIS MIND ON HIGHER THINGS

Scholar Unable to Sit Down and Reason Quietly on Matters of Everyday Life.

A monument was recently unveiled to the memory of Henri Poincaire, the famous mathematician and physicist, who was a cousin of the president of France. The occasion recalls a story or two of his remarkable absent-mindedness.

Almost every day Poincare left his money lying about somewhere. Finally his mother sewed his purse into the pocket of his coat. But one day, when he had dressed in a hotel, he put on his overcoat without the coat, and left that lying on a chair. Needless to say, he never saw the purse again.

One evening he was looking in a closed bookcase for a manuscript. During the search he set the lamp on a shelf in the case, and in a moment of abstraction closed the door of the cabinet, and sat down in darkness. After he had pondered for a time on the disappearance of the light, he came to the conclusion that he had suddenly become blind. That seemed to him quite possible since his eyes were weak, anyway, and he groaned at the thight of his deplorable condition. Suddenly to his surprise, a stream of light appeared, coming from the adjoining room, and he remarked, with much satisfaction: "My sight seems to have come back again." Not even then did he think of the lamp in the bookcase!—Youth's Companion.

Poor Henry.

Heck—Do you play an instrument?
Peck (sadly) — Second fiddle at home.—Boston Transcript.

To land in jail for taking things easy, that is the irony of fate.

Wide Assortment.

She thought she would try the new telephone.

"What number?" asked central.

"Why, I don't know. What numbers have you?"—Courier-Journal.

If she marries the wrong one it is because the right one failed to ask her.

King George in France.

"During the visit of King George and Queen Mary to Paris his majesty will be present at the annual spring review of the Paris garrison on April 22. The review will be held, as in previous years, in Vincennes. The review is generally held in March, but out of compliment to King George it has been delayed this year.

World's Deepest Mud.

The roads of the plains of Argentina have deeper dust in summer and deeper mud in winter than those of any other part of the world; consequently the wagons used on them have wheels from six to fifteen feet in diameter.